means to try the fact; whereas, that phial's being charged when held in a man's hand, only proves that water will conduct the electric matter. The Abbé owns, *p.* 94. that he had heard this remarked, but ſays, Why is not a conductor of electricity an electric ſubject? This is not the queſtion; Mr *Franklin* never ſaid that water was not an electric ſubject; he ſaid, that the power of giving a ſhock was in the glaſs, and not in the water; and this, his experiments, fully prove; ſo fully, that it may appear impertinent to offer any more: Yet as I do not know that the following has been taken notice of by any body before, my inſerting of it in this place may be excuſed. It is this: Hang a phial, prepared for the *Leyden* experiment, to the conductor, by its hook, and charge it, which done, remove the communication from the bottom of the phial. Now the conductor ſhews evident ſigns of being electriſed; for if a thread be tied round it, andit s ends left about two inches long, they will extend themſelves out like a pair of horns; but if you touch the conductor, a ſpark will iſſue from it, and the threads will fall, nor does the conductor ſhew the leaſt ſign of being electriſed after this is done. I think that by this touch, I have taken out all the charge of electric matter that was in the conductor, the hook of the phial, and water or filings of iron contain'd in it; which is no more than we ſee all non-electric bodies will receive; yet the glaſs of the phial retains its power of giving a ſhock, as any one will

find that pleaſes to try. This experiment fully evidences, that the water in the phial contains no more electric matter than it would do in an open baſon, and has not any of that great quantity which produces the ſhock, and is only retain'd by the glaſs. If after the ſpark is drawn from the conductor, you touch the coating of the phial (which all this while is ſuppoſed to hang in the air, free from any non-electric body) the threads on the conductor will inſtantly ſtart up, and ſhew that the conductor is electriſed. It receives this electriſation from the inner ſurface of the phial, which, when the outer ſurface can receive what it wants from the hand applied to it, will give as much as the bodies in contact with it can receive, or, if they be large enough, all that it has of exceſs. It is diverting to ſee how the threads will riſe and fall by touching the coating and conductor of the phial alternately. May it not be that the difference between the charged ſide of the glaſs, and the outer or emptied ſide, being leſſen'd by touching the hook or the conductor; the outer ſide can receive from the hand which touched it, and by its receiving the inner ſide cannot retain ſo much; and for that reaſon ſo much as it cannot retain electriſes the water, or filings and conductor: For it ſeems to be a rule, that the one ſide muſt be emptied in the ſame proportion that the other is fill'd: Tho' this from experiment appears evident, yet it is ſtill a myſtery not to be accounted for.

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